

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. Claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Houkes et al. (US 4,727,294) and Nishio et al. (US 6,781,315 B2). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The limitation of Claims 2 and 5 are incorporated into the amended claims 1 and 7. The Examiner asserts in the Office Action that Houkes discloses the similar content of Claim 5 of the present invention. However, the Examiner misunderstands the invention in Houkes. The part the Examiner regards as a protrusion (see the last paragraph in page 4 of the Office Action) is "a conductor 13," which is a conductor wire connected to an external conductive layer 12, but not the protrusion in Claim 5 of the present invention which allows the connection wire to be disposed spaced apart from the sealing portion. The conductor 13 of Houkes is "a metal wire," which does not support part of the luminous bulb as the protrusion of the present invention (see the column 3, line 14 of Houkes).

The Examiner asserts that Houkes discloses that a case 9 (a cylindrical wall portion) supports part of the luminous bulb 1 (glass lamp vessel) (see the second

paragraph in page 5 of the Office Action). However, with reference to the Figure, Houkes does not disclose that the case 9 supports part of the luminous bulb 1. From the Figure and Specification, Houkes fails to disclose that the case 9 intentionally supports the luminous bulb 1 (see the column 2, line 65 of Houkes). According to the structure shown in the Figure, a lower portion of the luminous bulb 1 may be pushed down into a lower portion of the case 9 as a result of being pressed from above. A horizontal line at the lower part of the luminous bulb 1 should be a boundary between the lower part of the luminous bulb 1 and the case 9 in a respective view, but not a holding portion provided in the case 9.

Also, a positional relationship between an upper portion of the core 4 and a tubular protuberance 3 is not clear from the Figure of Houkes. Therefore, it is possible to interpret that a positional relationship between the luminous bulb 1 and the case 9 is determined as a result of an upper portion of the core 4 touching the tubular protuberance 3.

Furthermore, Houkes fails to disclose the problem to be solved in the present invention: blackening of the connected portion of the luminous bulb and the cavity portion due to the wire from the core. Therefore, there is no motivation in Houkes to invent the structure in which the luminous bulb 1 is lifted with cases.

As explained above, how the luminous bulb 1 is supported by the case 9 is unknown from the Figure and Specification of Houkes. Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 3 and 7 recite novel subject matter neither taught, suggested, or motivated by Houkes and Nishio, and thus are in condition for allowance. Therefore,

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) based on their dependency from allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

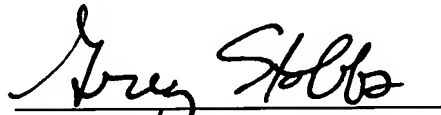
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000219/NP from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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